

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Colonial Coin Collectors Club

New England Threepence



Massachusetts Historical Society

Fall 2002

Volume 10 Number 3

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The C4 Newsletter

Volume 10 Number 3

A quarterly publication of

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Inc.

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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Angel Pietri at the address listed above. Dues are \$20-regular, \$10 for junior members (under 18), \$25-1st class mailing of newsletter, \$400 for Life Membership (or 4 quarterly payments of \$100).



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Articles, letters for publication, and ads should be sent to Angel Pietri, Brian Danforth

or to your Regional Vice President.

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Buell Ish

Classified Ads

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	Copy size
1 page	\$50	\$75	\$125	4-1/2"x 7-1/2"
1/2 page	30	45	75	4-1/2"x 3-3/4"

If you want to include a photo with your ad at an additional \$10. Black and white photo needed, size can be adjusted to fit. Please send check with your ad. We can accept camera ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 13 lines.



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President's Message

By Ray Williams

During the C4 Meeting this past summer at the ANA Convention in NYC, I was installed as your president for a second two year term. I'm honored and proud to serve in this capacity. We have the finest numismatic organization that exists, because of you the membership! The camaraderie we share is unequalled in the hobby. I'll do my best to keep C4 moving forward and act in your best interests. Thank you for your trust and support.

Since the last newsletter, Lou Jordan's book has been published by C4. It's titled, " John Hull, The Mint and the Economics of Massachusetts Coinage". It's a great work and has a place in your library regardless of your numismatic specialty interests. There are another five authors that will be ready to publish soon and I find this very encouraging. I'd like to thank Jim Rosen for all the work he has done on the C4 end of getting Lou's book published.

Acting on the wishes of the membership, expressed at our meeting at ANA, we'll soon have a publications committee and a C4 Literary Award. Also we'll soon have classified ads in Numismatic News and Coin World. Angel requested two years ago that we find a replacement editor for this newsletter and I thank Brian Danforth for stepping to the plate. This newsletter will be Angel's last as editor. I want to thank Angel publicly for all he has done and continues to do for C4. He has taken on the jobs of three officers simultaneously for many years. We all owe Angel a debt of gratitude for all these years of work on our behalf.

The C4 Convention is only a few weeks away and the work of many people will culminate in another awesome event. Information about the convention should be elsewhere in this newsletter. If we've never met, please come up and introduce yourself anytime during those four days. Educational events will again be on Friday night and the auction on Saturday night. If you've never been to a C4 Convention, you owe it to yourself to be there.

I'm submitting this message to Angel on 9/11/02, the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Buildings. I can't help thinking what a great country we have when we're able to enjoy pastimes like ours. Let's not take it for granted!

Have FUN and I'll see you in Boston



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Final Dues Notice

This is the final call for dues this year!

Check your mailing label for the number after your name. It should read 02 or higher. If you see 01, your dues are outstanding. Please mail me your check as soon as possible.



C4 Library News

By Leo J. Shane

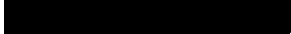
Thank You to Jim Spilman and the Colonial Newsletter Foundation for donating a copy of the manuscript. An Essay On Coining By Samuel Thompson – Die Sinker 1793. The copy of the original handwritten manuscript and an August 2002 Transcription is available for loan.

The Transcription was done by Randy Clark with help from Eric Cheung and Phil Mossman. Thank you to them for their work.

Also, Thank you to Tony Carlotto for donating a copy of his book , The Copper Coins Of Vermont And Those Bearing The Vermont Name, which is also now available.

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Think about what you collect and make your suggestions as to what you feel would be a good book to start with for other members.

Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. My E Mail is Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com or write to me at [REDACTED]



Errata

The cover on the last issue (Vol. 10, No. 2) should have read *Vermont U Reverse* without the Ryder 25. The photo actually corresponds to the Taylor Ryder 29 referenced in the article.



C4 Convention

The next C4 convention is scheduled for November 14-17, 2002 in Boston at the Radisson Hotel. This will be as usual in conjunction with the Bay State Coin show.

If you have not made your reservations, call the Radisson Hotel at 617-482-1800 and ask for the Bay State Coin Show rates.



Book Ordering Information: "John Hull, The Mint and the Economics of Massachusetts Coinage"

The address listed in the last issue was inaccurate. The correct address is:

Order Department
University Press of New England
1 Court St., Suite 250
Lebanon, NH 03766-1358

The cost of the book is \$50 plus \$5.00 shipping fee for one book and \$1.25 for each additional book on multiple copies.



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C4 Items for Sale

The Copper Coins of Vermont

And Those Bearing The Vermont Name

by Tony Carlotto

Only a handful of copies left!

Regular edition price \$50 (add \$3 for shipping)

Send orders to:

Ray Williams



C4 Convention Items for Sale

Hardbound Scott Barnes Catalogs \$50

Hardbound Fifth C4 Convention Catalogues \$50/ea.

Call or write Ray Williams if you are interested for availability.

Add \$3 postage and handling. All will be sent uninsured at buyer's risk. If you want insurance, add an appropriate amount. Please forward your check to Ray, payable to C4.

The Richard Picker Collection Lot Envelopes

Stack's has provided C4 with Picker's own customized envelopes from his collection sold in October 1984. They are available from the club for \$5 each if you can show adequate proof that you own the coin. This \$5 donation is for the club's treasury, thanks to Stack's. All unsold envelopes will be returned to Stack's. If you own any of these coins and would like to own the envelope, contact Ray Williams.

The Fugio plates are sold out!



Enigmatic N.E. Threepence

By Geoffrey P. Stevens

I recently had the opportunity to examine the New England threepence at the Massachusetts Historical Society. After some correspondence with Anne Bentley, the societies of Curators of Artifacts, I was able to meet with her for a special viewing. This is truly an important piece, in what is in my opinion the greatest series of early American coinage. This unique threepence denomination exists in a small sampling of surviving N.E. pieces. This year marks the 350th anniversary of the issuing of Massachusetts Bay Colony silver. John Hull and Robert Saunderson together had a lengthy and varied production of pieces, which exhibit different striking methods, styles, and designs. The series as an entirety, is one, which could be called colorful. From crude to beautiful, there is something for everyone. The early N. E. pieces, which could be seen as patterns, had a short striking from punches with fairly simple designs. General consensus dictates a striking period between June and at least until Oct. of 1652, until the "tree" types began with the willow pieces. We know that N. E. coins in general stayed in circulation, until at least 1711, where a shilling was among the H.M.S. Feversham payroll bounty picked up in New York. Obviously all of the N. E. pieces were not re-melted for planchet strips to produce willows.

This unique threepence (Figs. 1A and 1B) has a special place in the history of coinage in what would become the United States of America. The Massachusetts Historical Society specimen N.E. threepence weighs 1.12 grams, or 17.3 grains. The diameter of the coin is three quarters of an inch, or 19mm, (approximately). A script form N. E. is punched at the twelve o'clock of what is called the obverse, with a Roman numeral III at the corresponding reverse, rotated approximately 180 degrees. The N. E. is outlined by the punch shape, as it is upon the sixpence pieces, unlike the square punch for the shillings. The previous owner was William Sumner



Figure 1A: M.H.S. New England Threepence- obverse

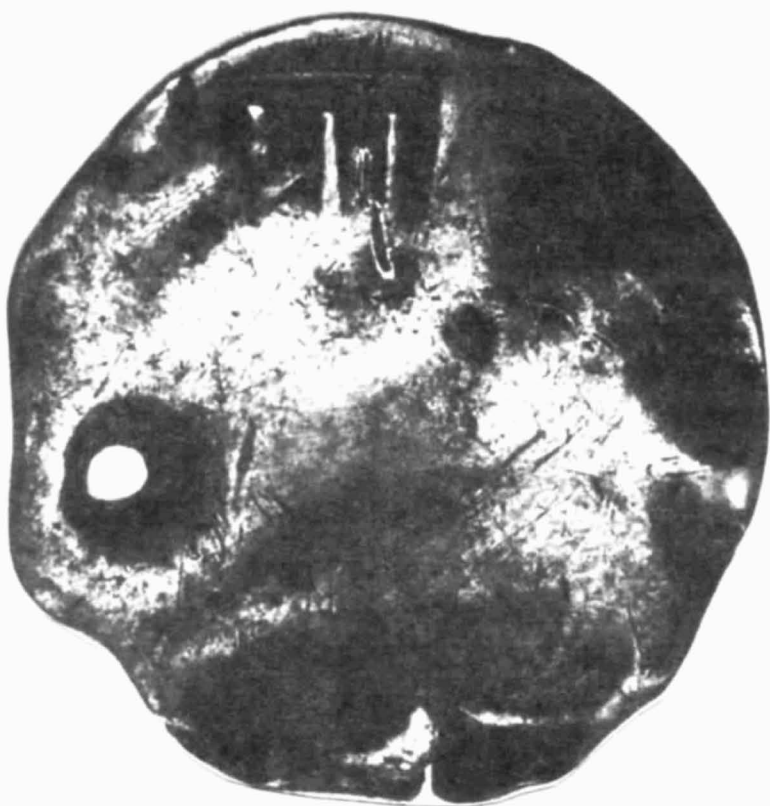


Figure 1B: M.H.S. New England Threepence- reverse

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Appleton, who left the piece to the society in 1905, along with examples of the N. E. shilling and N. E. sixpence. The threepence is a deeply toned, almost brown in appearance. A hole has been punched through from the reverse, at about nine o'clock near the edge, to the corresponding obverse.

Holes can be found on other examples of Massachusetts Bay silver, as well as many contemporary foreign types. Spanish silver coins are among the more common to find with holes. A great modern analogy to the piercing of these pieces is your keys. Coins were often strung or tied together by a strip of leather, or cord of some type for safekeeping.

As for the question of the unique status of this piece, questions may always remain unanswered. This truly is an enigma. At one time there were thought to be a few examples of the N. E. threepence surviving. This one M.H.S. example has the pedigree behind it. However this is reassuring only to a point. The truth is that the integrity of other N. E. denominations is often fortified not only by pedigree, but secondary examples from the same dies. There is no way when dealing with something unique, and from this era, that it can ever be declared one hundred percent genuine. Obviously detailed records of these dies do not exist. I am by no way declaring this piece to be from any other source than that of the early Boston mint. I am merely raising the discussion of said piece's status as truly enigmatic. A Yale University N.E. 3d coin had been stolen early in this last century. Another apparent example was supposedly found to be a worn smooth Spanish milled Real. Many fantasy pieces, and counterfeits exist. Some copies, or possibly contemporary circulating counterfeits go back to the 1800s. On November 21, 1871, the Dr. Charles Clay collection had three examples of N. E. threepenny pieces! I personally have a convincing looking copy, which is very old in appearance and heavy at 28.4g (Fig. 2).

Why have no other examples of this threepence been found? Are we to assume that someone would go through the trouble to produce these in such a small number? The smaller the coin, the easier it would have been to lose, and be found modern day. Hence the hole



Figure 2: Imitation N.E. Threepence

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for safety. On the other hand, the population of some varieties of N. E. coins is only two. Even in the willow tree series there is a die variety with a population of two, (2a shilling)? The entire N. E. sixpence population is only around eight.

I could hope that another threepence of the same die as the M.H.S. coin possibly turn up some day. It may happen tomorrow, or maybe never. I would be interested in hearing from anyone who may be aware of the whereabouts of any other N.E 3d pieces listed above or otherwise. We can only wish, as this truly is a numismatic treasure.

References:

1. Sydney P. Noe, The Silver Coinage of Massachusetts (Quarterman Publications, 1973)
2. Massachusetts Historical Society, 'Museum Of Fine Arts, Boston Witness to America's Past, 1991

Special thanks to: Anne B. Bentley, Curator of Art/ acting Registrar, and Nicholas Graham, Reference Librarian, Massachusetts Historical Society.



Virginia No Period Halfpenny, Seven Harpstrings: Newman 10C?

By Mark Kleiman

I would like to present to the membership a Virginia No Period halfpenny which may be unlisted. I will first present the characteristics as presented by Newman and the naked eye differences.

OBVERSE:

First I tilted left- sharply; higher than second I.

Top of second I nearer top of first than third and closer to first I than third.

Second G slightly low.



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Period slightly nearer I than R.

O nearer E than R.

E central to R and X.

REVERSE:

Leaf under V vertical.

A straight up.

Large lion clear of line.

Top of 7 above 1.

Leaf tip over space between V and shield.

I does not touch line.

Dot after 3 and A at center line.

Leaf end opposite point between center and right side of upright of first I.

Leaf end opposite center of A.

Third I parallel to Divider.

The following are the naked eye diagnostics:

Obverse: Tip of ribbon end points below the E and the nose points to the right of R.

Reverse: VIR is not curved. A straight line drawn under VIR cuts midway through the G.

I would appreciate learning if other such examples exist. Please contact me at marklei@on.aibn.com.



My Pet Peeve

By Gary A. Trudgen

My pet peeve is the misuse of the name of the early American coinage operation established by Thomas Machin near Newburgh, NY. I have seen: Machin Mill, Machin Mills, Machin's Mill, Machins Mill, Machins Mills, etc. All of these are incorrect. The proper name of the mint is Machin's Mills.

The proper name of the mint can be satisfactorily determined by examining the two indentures that were drawn up to create Thomas Machin's company and then the partnership with Reuben Harmon's Vermont coinage operation. The texts of both indentures are published in Crosby's *The Early Coins of America*. The first indenture, dated April 18, 1787, established Machin's firm and is found beginning on page 192 of Crosby. Within the text of this indenture is the following (bolding added for emphasis):

"And the said Thomas Machin being possessed of certain **mills**, doth hereby agree to let the parties to these presents have the free use of them for and during the continuance of their copartnership (for the purpose of carrying on their joint trade) without any fee or reward for the same."

The second indenture, starting on page 196, is dated June 7, 1787 and legally bound Machin's company to that of Reuben Harmon. Quoting from this document we find (again, bolding is added for emphasis):

"...it is further agreed by the parties of these Presents that the said Samuel Atlee, James F. Atlee, David Brooks, James Grier, James Giles and Thomas Machin, shall on or before the said First day of July next Compleat (sic) at their own Proper Cost & Charges the Works now Errecting (sic) at the **Mills** of the said Thomas Machin near the Great Pond in the County of Ulster aforesaid, so as to Enable the parties to these presents to Carry on their Joint Trade,...".

This document continues with excerpts as follows:

"...Works erecting at the said Thomas **Machin's Mills**..."

"...Coinage of Money & Manufacuring (sic) Hard Ware at the **Mills** of the said Thomas Machin..."

"...Money Coined at the **Mills** of the said Thomas Machin..."



Both indentures consistently refer to the physical structure or structures in the plural, that being the mills in the possession of Thomas Machin. Also, since the mills are in the possession of Thomas Machin, correct English grammar requires the use of an apostrophe with Machin's surname when referring to his mills. Therefore, based upon the contemporary information from the indentures and proper grammar usage, the correct name for the mint at Newburgh, NY is **Machin's Mills**.

Machin's son, Thomas Machin, Junior, recorded an excellent description of the mint structure. His description was first published in 1859 on page 135 of E.M. Ruttenber's *History of the Town of Newburgh*. The description begins with: "The coinage mill was from forty to fifty rods below the pond, on a canal dug for the purpose.

The building was of wood, thirty by forty feet, and two stories high.” This eyewitness account states that the mint was housed in one building. Initially this appears to contradict the plural usage of mills found in the indentures. However, if we refer to the *History of Orange County, New York 1683-1881* by E. M. Ruttenber and L. H. Clark we find on page 281 that “Capt. Machin began to build a grist- and saw-mill here in 1784, and gave the name of New Grange [area west of Newburgh] to the place.” This quote explains why the plural was used in the indentures. Thomas Machin had constructed both a grist mill and a saw mill within the same building. A study of early American mill construction techniques confirms that this type of dual construction was indeed practiced. Thus, when Machin and his copartners decided to establish a coinage facility, his mills were converted into the mint.

To summarize, we know that the mint was constructed by converting a grist mill and a saw mill that were housed in the same building. We know that this building was known as the mills of Thomas Machin or Thomas Machin’s Mills. Therefore, we should strive to keep the same nomenclature that was used by the people who founded and operated this fascinating early American mint.



Vermont Survey

Roy Bonjour is conducting a survey of the following Vermonts:
32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38

If you own, have owned or know about the existence/location of any of these coins, I would like to hear from you. As in my past survey, there will be complete confidentiality if you wish.

Roy Bonjour



r.bonjour@att.net



For sale Spanish/American two reales contemporary counterfeits

1708 Spain Charles III pretender(brass) VF \$350

1723 Spain Philip V (silver) VF-XF clipped \$250

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1736 Spain Philip V (silver) F \$175

1810 Columbia Kleeberg 10A-P4 (brass) Rarity 7, F \$325

All have excellent “eye” appeal and good planchets
 1787 Conn. Mi. 41-ii DBL AUCTOPI obv., ET IIB rev. VF weak
 date, 1788 Mass. Ry. 1-D One Cent VF-30 “very nice”,
 1787 Verm. Ry. 14 MBR F “nice”
 1788 Verm. Ry. 25 MBR VF uniformly porous but not distracting
 1776 Jan 1 issue Delaware 10s currency AU-UNC (some would call
 it UNC)

LEO SHANE E Mail: Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com

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Send to: Walter Deleu- C4



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Tom Madigan



Wanted: Back copies of the C4 Newsletter. Also wanted are back

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issues of Coin World, Numismatic News, and any other periodical covering US numismatics.

Contact: Harold Thomas



I desire to correspond with anyone who has an interest in the tokens, medals, dies, craftsmanship, biographies, and other aspects of Boston engraver Joseph H. Merriam and Springfield engraver James A. Bolen. Also, I would like to purchase and would pay full retail price for any Bolen colonial copies of different metals and mulings that I do not presently have. Correspondence is invited.

David Bowers



Barry Tayman and I, under a grant from the ANS, are working on a monograph on Canadian Blacksmith tokens. We are seeking information from collectors, especially about the rarer pieces. I can be contacted at my home address or through my web site.

George Fuld, Sc.D.



Fuld1@home.com



Imitation halfpence coppers (Redbook group I, II and III) in VF to EF condition. All dates wanted.

Please call Min at [REDACTED], or E-mail at Unifilis @aol.com



Wanted, cull to mid-grade:
Virginia halfpennies
Colonial and Continental currency

Also wanted: biographical information on the lesser known signers of
Continental and colonial currency. Will pay for referenced
information I don't have.

David Consolvo



historiccoins@firstva.com




I am currently researching Massachusetts Bay Colony silver coinage.
Any information or new thoughts which are not addressed in the
basics (Noe, Crosby, Breen, Durst, etc.) would be appreciated.
Intermediary die states, contemporary counterfeits, high quality
fabrications, witch pieces, etc. Correspondence desired. Also buying
low grade, clipped, holed, mutilated, witch pieces. Thank you.

Geoffrey Stevens



Pattinbpt@mediaone.net



Visit my new web site www.USColonials.com. I will post and
describe for free any COLONIAL over \$199-see the web site for the
sellers' terms for full details. Contact Mike@USColonials.com or at
 Michael Wierzba

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Collector wishes to purchase for top dollar: 1793 Liberty Cap cent, AG to F; Immune(Immunis) Columbia; Chalmers shilling; Auctori Plebis; Oak Tree Shilling; Rhode Island Ship Medal; Pitt token. These coins will be cherished. Thank you. Frank Vivalo- [REDACTED]



Richard August, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

For Sale: Oak Tree Sixpence, Noe 20, F-VF \$3,100; Pine Tree shilling, Noe 17, VF \$2,700; Good Samaritan shilling, silver UNC \$2,200; Mass. 1787 cent 2bE, VF \$650, 4D F-VF \$175; 1788 half cent, 1B F-VF \$235; NJ 11H F \$3,800, 16J VF \$2,500, 17J VF-XF \$1,600, 56n AXF \$750; 85 Conn. 6.3g.1 VF-XF \$500, 87 4L VF-XF \$550, 25b F \$135, 33.27r.4 XF \$2,400, 33.36T.2 F-VF \$110, 88 12.1F.1 VF-XF \$900. Vermont R2 AXF full \$7,00, R9 F-VF \$875, R14 VF-XF \$850, R22 late die VF \$850. Machin's 3-71B F-VF \$575, 8-74A VF \$850, 12-78B VF-XF \$1,600, 17-87B VF-XF \$475. Fugio 3D F-VF \$475, 9P XF \$775, 10T VF-XF \$2,300, 12S VF \$1,300, 13X UNC \$2,200, 18U AXF \$475. French 1690 5 sol XF \$2,850, 1712D 30 sol XF \$350, 1713AA 15 sol XF \$750, 1720 A 20 sol XF \$500.



Virginia Halfpence needed for a new die variety plate. Please bring your Virginia halfpence to Boston for me to photograph. All varieties needed from common in XF and up, to rare in any grade. Please bring any coin unlisted in Newman. If you do not know what die variety your Virginia is then be sure to bring it. Many Thanks, Alan Anthony



Since 1935, the name *Stack's* has been linked to building great collections of colonial coins. Today's collectors take pride in owning colonials pedigreed to such great collections as Oechsner, Hessberg, Groves, Park, Robison, Eliasberg, Spiro, and Picker, to name just a few. We helped build each one of them. *Stack's* can help you build your own collection of colonials, be they coins or medals.

We maintain a comprehensive stock of colonial coins and medals. Need a type, or a particular variety? Call our retail sales department, *Stack's* can help you find what you're looking for. We can help you upgrade, we'll even take your duplicate in trade towards the price of your new purchase.

Thinking of selling your coins? We're always interested in buying colonials. Thinking about an auction for your coins? *Stack's* has conducted more auctions of colonials than all our competitors, combined, ever have. Just give us a call, we'll be glad to help with your plans.

Stack's has the expertise in colonials. *Stack's* research library is the best in the coin business. *Stack's* clientele is the finest in the hobby. We're here to help. Just put us to the test.

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